



HOUGHTON COLLEGE
Commencement

COMMENCEMENT 2020

President's Welcome	Shirley A. Mullen '76 <i>President</i>
Invocation	Andy Cahill '94 <i>Parent of Graduate</i>
Musical Selection "How it Ends"	Andrew Lippa Daniel Bussey '20, Tenor
Commencement Address	Deborah Birx '76
Presentation of Class Gift	Seth Pearson '20
Gift from the Class of 1970 in honor of the Class of 2020	Daryl Stevenson '70
Words of Commendation from our Board of Trustees	Dan Bates '98
Presentation of Degrees Candidates presented by Paul Young '76, provost and dean of the faculty, announced by department faculty and conferred by President Mullen	
Benediction	Todd Glendenning '97 <i>Parent of Graduate</i>
Recessional "Processional"	Martin Shaw Judy Congdon, Organ

Junior Class Marshals: Hannah Daniels '21 and Nathan Anderson '21

Piper: Alastair Hutton '10

GRADUATES

MASTER DEGREES:

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Alana Taylor Cross, M.A. †
Amelia Grace Makus, M.MUS. †
Brandon Mellerski, M.MUS. †
Marissa Liliana Perez, M.MUS.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES:

ART

Lynnea Renee Bussey, B.F.A.
Alicia Cline, B.F.A.
Lauren Couturier, B.A. *
Kyle Daniel Dunham, B.F.A. Cum Laude
Holly Alexandra Fleth, B.A. * † Magna Cum Laude
Elisabeth Ann Harris, B.F.A.
Katelyn Heins, B.F.A. Cum Laude
Timothy Emmett Paschalis, B.F.A. Magna Cum Laude
Seth Micah Pearson, B.F.A. Cum Laude
Zachary J. Roberts, B.F.A. Summa Cum Laude
Erin Kathleen Smith, B.F.A. Magna Cum Laude
Jessica Witter, B.A. * Cum Laude

BIBLICAL STUDIES, THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

Marc Edwidje Alfonse, B.S. Magna Cum Laude
Emily Kristen Allen, B.A. Summa Cum Laude
Christian Edward Arbour, B.A. *
Jacob Anthony Bailey, B.A.
Olivia Caitlin Bullock, B.A. Magna Cum Laude
Bethany Elliott, B.A.
Hannah Marie Ferland, B.A.
Olivia Flint, B.S. Magna Cum Laude
Adam Gregory Funch, B.S.
Lucy Elizabeth Greisner, B.A. *
Erin Ellen Lawrence, B.A. *
Aaron Moore, B.A.
Kyla Grace Nies, B.A. * Cum Laude
Tyler John Stetson, B.A. * Cum Laude
Honus S. Wagner, B.A. * Summa Cum Laude

BIOLOGY

Marcus Betzer, B.A. † † Magna Cum Laude
Emilia Louise Blakeslee, B.S. † Cum Laude

Brady Bowen, B.A.
Kyle Patrick Brown, B.A. *
Emily Elizabeth Burns, B.S. † †
Katie Kityee Dang, B.S. Cum Laude
Stephen Freire, B.S. † † Magna Cum Laude
Joel Goetz, B.S.
Anna Elizabeth Hardiman, B.A. * † † Magna Cum Laude
Melissa Hodde, B.A. * Cum Laude
Mikaela Joshuwyn Hummel, B.A. † † Summa Cum Laude
Salutatorian
Sahara Javner, B.S. † †
Seanna Christine Jobe, B.A. * Magna Cum Laude
Brandon M. Joslin, B.S. *
Hyeok Kim, B.S. Magna Cum Laude
Colin Kloc, B.A. Cum Laude
Natalie Marie Kyvik, B.S. † † Magna Cum Laude
Ronald George Lott III, B.S. † † Summa Cum Laude
Jeremy M. Newswanger, B.S. * † † Summa Cum Laude
Shannon Pigott, B.A. Summa Cum Laude
Gwen Katherine Stokes, B.S. * † † Cum Laude
Ryan Strong, B.S.
Philip N. Tyrrell, B.A.
Leah Wilson, B.A. *
Kaitlin Mae Young, B.S.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Merris Abena-Soah Ackon, B.S. *
Adam R. Barna, B.S.
Sarita Barnes, B.S.
Cori Suzanna Beck, B.S. * Cum Laude
Emily Bosdale, B.S. * Summa Cum Laude
Kyle Patrick Brown, B.A. *
Ryan David Burrichter, B.S. * Cum Laude
Brennen Michael Cahill, B.S.
Christine M. Campbell, B.S.
Kaitlyn J. Campbell, B.S.
Melinda J. Clark, B.B.A.
Nikia Clark, B.S.
Benjamin E. Colby, B.S.
Whitney Andrew Cook, B.S. *
Vincent DeStefano, B.B.A.
Benjamin D. DiCraсто, B.S. * Magna Cum Laude
Kyle Matthew Donk, B.S.

Emily Grace Fox, B.S.*	Cum Laude	Chenoa Berg, B.S.	Magna Cum Laude
Carlos A. Gildemeister, B.S.		Daniel P-Joseph Burdo, B.A.*	
Joseph Augustus Gross, B.S.*		Thea E. Cline, B.S.	Cum Laude
Erik Michael Heck, B.S.*		Jacob Elias Crawford, B.S.	
Skylar Marcus Hillman, B.S.*	Cum Laude	Jacob Robert Dean, B.S.	
Brandon M. Joslin, B.S.*		Erica Michele Durbin, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Rachel Lynn Keener, B.A.*	Magna Cum Laude	Jared Hobson, B.S.	Cum Laude
Shelby Ryan Langlois, B.S.*		Francis Irvin Spottswood Hull V, B.S.	
Kacey Linamen, B.S.	Magna Cum Laude	Celeste Ellen Kenney, B.S.*	Summa Cum Laude
Samuel Martz, B.S.		Noah S. Miller, B.S.*	Cum Laude
Catrina Starr Maynard, B.S.		Christopher Joseph Moore, B.S.	
Amanda Rose Mellerski, B.S.*		Zachary Karl Paris, B.S.*	
Marcus Vinicius Carvalho Mena, B.S.		Caleb D. Phillips, B.A.	
Noah S. Miller, B.S.*	Cum Laude	Jarod Ian Reed, B.S.	
Mallory Catherine Moore, B.S.		Hannah E. Sievers, B.S.	
Joel Mulindwa, B.S.		Mikalah Thomas, B.A.*	Magna Cum Laude
Jennifer Marie Orlando, B.S.			
Zachary Karl Paris, B.S.*			
Victoria L. Patterson, B.S.	Magna Cum Laude		
Isander M. Ramos Net, B.S.			
Barbara Fay Richert, B.S.*			
Andrew Rickard, B.S.			
Dylan Scott Scherer, B.S.			
Jordan Margaret Smith, B.S.*			
Malcolm A. Smith, B.S.			
Shelby Snow, B.S.	Magna Cum Laude		
Thomas Allan Steward, B.S.			
Chris Thomas, B.S.	Summa Cum Laude		
Griffin Scott Tubbs, B.S.			
Lydia Kathryn Van Kirk, B.S.*	Summa Cum Laude		
John Andrew Vernick, B.S.*	Cum Laude		
Constance M. Wadsworth, B.B.A.			
Kenneth Ryan Watson, B.S.			
David John Wessells, B.S.*			
Daniel Williamson, B.S.			
Thomas James Woodward, B.S.*			
Isaac Vance Worrall, B.S.			

CHEMISTRY

Josiah Curtis Kratz, B.S.*‡	Summa Cum Laude
Jeremy M. Newswanger, B.S.*‡	Summa Cum Laude
Cassandra Lynn Pensyl, B.S.	

Biochemistry

Ellirose A. Edwards, B.S.

COMMUNICATION

Christian Edward Arbour, B.A.*
Madelyn Olivia Bailey, B.S.

EDUCATION

Adolescence Education

Benjamin Tyler Closson, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Seanna Christine Jobe, B.A.*	Magna Cum Laude
Eunjin Kwak, B.A.*	
Andrada Tuduc, B.A.*◊‡	Magna Cum Laude

Inclusive Adolescence Education

Dana Marie Jones, B.A.*

Inclusive Childhood Education

Carly Cronin, B.S.	
Jaimee Glendenning, B.S.	Cum Laude
Brooke Lewandowski, B.S.	
Morgan Michelle Potempa, B.S.	
Penina Puyu, B.S.	Cum Laude
Sharayah Elizabeth Werner, B.S.	Cum Laude

ENGLISH & WRITING

Erica Michele Durbin, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Melissa Hodde, B.A.*	Cum Laude
David Blair Kralt, B.A.	
Samantha Ann Moore, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Kristen Hannah Savastano, B.A.	Cum Laude
Kayla B. Simmons, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Nicole Danielle Soggs, B.A.	
Grace Elaina Sommons, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Mikalah Thomas, B.A.*	Magna Cum Laude
Haley Lynn Trevino, B.A.	
Rachel Morgan Wheeler, B.A.*	Cum Laude

GLOBAL STUDIES

Intercultural Studies

Kseniia Forte, B.A.	Cum Laude
Anna Elizabeth Hardiman, B.A.* ^{◇‡}	Magna Cum Laude
Sydney Meghan Jameson, B.A.*	Magna Cum Laude
Austin Robert Magliato, B.A.	
Renee Marie Miller, B.A.	Cum Laude
Kyla Grace Nies, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Grace Elaina Sommons, B.A.*	Cum Laude

International Development

Karissa Esala, B.A.*	Summa Cum Laude Valedictorian
Micah Modesto, B.A.	Magna Cum Laude
Vivian Faye Rivers, B.A.	Cum Laude
Taylor Laurny Sullivan, B.A.◇	Summa Cum Laude
Honus S. Wagner, B.A.*	Summa Cum Laude

Spanish

Sydney Meghan Jameson, B.A.*	Magna Cum Laude
Dana Marie Jones, B.A.*	

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Merris Abena-Soah Ackon, B.S.*	
James Argot, B.A.*	
Benjamin Tyler Closson, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Holden Nathaniel Deres, B.A.	
Tyler Deuschle, B.A.	
Karissa Esala, B.A.*	Summa Cum Laude Valedictorian
Elijah Abraham Friedman, B.A.	
Skylar Marcus Hillman, B.S.*	Cum Laude
Caleb Edward Kaiss, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Rachel Lynn Keener, B.A.*	Magna Cum Laude
Erin Ellen Lawrence, B.A.*	
Garrett Tanner Martin, B.A.	Cum Laude
Kayla B. Simmons, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Elijah James Tangenberg, B.A.	Summa Cum Laude
Jessica Witter, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Mackenzie Elizabeth Witter, B.A.	

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Emma Bruce, B.A.	
Rachael Nicole Fortney, B.S.	
Corral Oseana Mrozik, B.S.	
Morgan Elizabeth Rohde, B.S.	

MATHEMATICS

Bryan Crispino Donohue, B.A.	
Amy Leigh Huddell, B.A.	Magna Cum Laude

Eunjin Kwak, B.A.*	
Caleb Lyon, B.A.*	Summa Cum Laude
Aaron James Monroe, B.S.*	Magna Cum Laude
Nathaniel Asher Parks, B.A.	
Tyler John Stetson, B.A.*	Cum Laude
Gwen Katherine Stokes, B.S.* [‡]	Cum Laude
Andrada Tuduc, B.A.* ^{◇‡}	Magna Cum Laude
Alexander M. Wood, B.A.	

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Elizabeth Ann Best, B.A.	Cum Laude
Stephen Paul Brittin, B.S.	Cum Laude
Trey Burlingame, B.MUS.	
Daniel Stephen Kingsley Bussey, B.MUS. [‡]	Summa Cum Laude
Sarah Elizabeth Glick, B.MUS.	Magna Cum Laude
Jessica Lori Gottschall, B.MUS.	Magna Cum Laude
Hannah Hawes, B.MUS. [‡]	Summa Cum Laude
Claudia Klink, B.A.	Magna Cum Laude
Bethany Paige Overbaugh, B.MUS. [‡]	Magna Cum Laude
Rachel Schaarschmidt, B.MUS.	Magna Cum Laude
Kylie Tomaselli, B.MUS.	
Nicole Paige Wakelee, B.MUS.	
Kierstyn Alexis Woody, B.MUS.	

PHYSICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE, DATA SCIENCE, ENGINEERING

Jonathan Durbin, B.S.*	
Holly Alexandra Fleth, B.A.* [‡]	Magna Cum Laude
Alec Hussak, B.S.	
Josiah Curtis Kratz, B.S.* [‡]	Summa Cum Laude
Bernardo Jaime Langa Jr., B.S.	
Caleb Lyon, B.A.*	Summa Cum Laude
Aaron James Monroe, B.S.*	Magna Cum Laude
Sarah Grace Olandt, B.S.	Magna Cum Laude
Steven Henry Raymond, B.S.	
Teresa Madeleine Soley, B.S.	
Erik Andrew Sorensen, B.S.	Summa Cum Laude
Elliot Spicer, B.A.	Cum Laude
Joshua Weller, B.S.	

PSYCHOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Noah B. Arber, B.A.	Cum Laude
Daniel P-Joseph Burdo, B.A.*	
Lauren Couturier, B.A.*	
Daniel Jacob Cunningham, B.A.	
Catherine de Oliveira, B.A.	
Julia S. Fisher, B.A.	

Lucy Elizabeth Greisner, B.A.*
 Rachel Hibberd, B.A.
 Matthew Craig Holmes, B.A.
 Nicole Hughes, B.A.
 Kathleen Louise Jones, B.A. Summa Cum Laude
 Michelle Lynn Miller, B.A.◇ Summa Cum Laude
 Abigail Naylor, B.S.*◇ Summa Cum Laude
 Kimball Elizabeth Nicholson, B.A.
 Hannah Milleah Pender, B.A.◇ Magna Cum Laude
 Jillian E. Ray, B.A.
 Barbara Fay Richert, B.S.*
 Caroline Dorothy Smith, B.A.
 Faye Smith, B.A.
 Emily Joanne May Stowe, B.A.*
 Shane Sullivan, B.A.
 Amber Nicole Tanner, B.A.
 Blaire Marie Trippett, B.A.
 Leah Wilson, B.A.*

SPORT, RECREATION & WELLNESS

Recreation: Equestrian

Celeste Ellen Kenney, B.S.* Summa Cum Laude
 Abigail Naylor, B.S.*◇ Summa Cum Laude
 Jordan Margaret Smith, B.S.*
 Grace Emma Stevens, B.S.
 Lydia Kathryn Van Kirk, B.S.* Summa Cum Laude

Sport, Recreation & Wellness Management

Austin Samuel Andryshak, B.S.
 Cori Suzanna Beck, B.S.* Cum Laude
 Allysha Cathryn Bittinger, B.S.
 Benjamin D. DiCraсто, B.S.* Magna Cum Laude
 Marissa Michelle Hews, B.S. Cum Laude
 McKenzie Grace Marie Marti, B.S.
 Abigail Marie Quattrone, B.S.

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

HOUGHTON, NY CAMPUS

Joy Elisabeth Bartell, A.A.

HOUGHTON / BUFFALO SYMPHONY CIRCLE

Soumaya Houssein Hassan, A.A.
 Bu Meh, A.A.
 Bue Meh, A.A.
 Paku Mo, A.A.
 Qoresho I. Mohamed, A.A.
 Alice Niyogusenga, A.A.
 Hana W. Redie, A.A.

Huda W. Redie, A.A.
 Nee Lar Win, A.A.
 Riziki Vare Zablou, A.A.

HOUGHTON / BUFFALO HOPE HOUSE

Patrick Michael Foster, A.A.
 Santo Gonzalez, A.A.
 Joseph Edward Wallace, A.A.

HOUGHTON / UTICA

Eh Khu Hser, A.A.
 Kaw Htoo, A.A.
 Way Moo, A.A.
 Hser Moo Paw, A.A.
 Moo Lay Paw, A.A.
 Sa Sea Shee, A.A.
 Eh Leh Sher, A.A.
 Pho Mu Sid, A.A.
 Hla Thein, A.A.

Symbol Key

* Students with multiple majors
 † Pi Kappa Lambda - National Music Honor Society
 ◇ Psi Chi - The National Honor Society in Psychology
 ‡ Sigma Zeta - National Science and Mathematics Honor Society

When majors are in different departments, the student's name appears in each department.

Graduation Honors

Valedictorian / Salutatorian (gold stole)
 Summa Cum Laude: GPA 3.9 – 4.0 (gold cords)
 Magna Cum Laude: GPA 3.7 – 3.89 (purple cords)
 Cum Laude: GPA 3.5 – 3.69 (white cords)

Honors computed based on cumulative grade point average at the end of the fall semester as verified on March 16, 2020, and are subject to change pending completion of degree requirements.

Listing of student's name does not guarantee degree completion.

SENIOR HONORS RESEARCH

Amy Huddell

Senior Honors in Mathematics

Committee Chair: Rebekah Yates

Title: *Exploring Numerical Range in Finite Fields*

Erik Sorensen

Senior Honors in Data Science

Committee Chair: Wei Hu

Title: *Quantum Neural Networks for Reinforcement Learning*

Caleb Lyon

Senior Honors in Mathematics

Committee Chair: Brandon Bate

Title: *Coadjoint Orbits for the Unipotent Group of Upper Triangular Matrices*

Elijah Tangenberg

Senior Honors in Political Science

Committee Chair: Ronald Oakerson

Title: *Resource History Matters: An Investigation of Resource Path Dependency in the Anthropocene*

SENIOR CLASS GIFT

Thank you to the following Senior Class Gift donors:

Marc E. Alfonce

Christian E. Arbour

Chenoa N. Berg

Emily C. Blosdale

Emily E. Burns

Ryan D. Burrichter

Jacob R. Dean

Benjamin D. DiCraсто

Erica M. Durbin

Holly A. Fleth

Olivia R. Flint

Sarah E. Glick

Jessica L. Gottschall

Lucy E. Greisner

Marissa M. Hews

Amy L. Huddell

Mikaela J. Hummel

Sydney M. Jameson

Seanna C. Jobe

Caleb E. Kaiss

Josiah C. Kratz

Natalie M. Kyvik

Bernardo J. Langa

Erin E. Lawrence

Garrett T. Martin

Micah A. Modesto

Aaron J. Monroe

Samantha A. Moore

Abigail P. Naylor

Timothy E. Paschalis

Seth M. Pearson

Erin K. Smith

Erik A. Sorensen

Tyler J. Stetson

Taylor L. Sullivan

Mikalah R. Thomas

Lydia K. Van Kirk

Rachel M. Wheeler

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Deborah Birx

Dr. Deborah Birx, Class of 1976, is someone who has become familiar to most of us over the course of the past few months in the context of President Trump's evening briefings of the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

Dr. Birx's professional service to her country and her world began long before the coronavirus pandemic. Deborah Birx graduated from Houghton College in 1976 as a chemistry major. She had already made a name for herself on campus as a gifted student and researcher. She went on to do her medical training at the Hershey Medical Center of Pennsylvania State University.

Since graduating from Hershey, except for a brief period in the 1980s when she worked at the National Institute of Health as an investigator specializing in cellular immunology, Dr. Birx has done most of her medical service in the context of the United States military where she has risen to the rank of Colonel. She has served at Walter Reed Medical Center in various capacities, including as the Director of the United States Military HIV Research Program at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. From 2005 to 2014, Dr. Birx was the director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Global HIV/AIDS—and from there was nominated by President Barack Obama to be the Ambassador at Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. She was serving in that position when she was called on this past February to bring her experience and expertise in immunology and global health to help our country and our world deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wherever Dr. Birx has gone, she has brought the trademark qualities of a Houghton graduate—competence, extraordinary dedication, and graciousness—using her gifts not for her own aggrandizement but for the good of those around her.

ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

COSTUME AND SYMBOLS

The source of academic dress is still in question. Both fine raiment and plain robes have characterized leaders of the church and state down through history. For ecclesiastical beginnings, Exodus 28 describes robes intended “for glory and for beauty.” This attire sets the designated leaders or teachers apart. In the beginning, educational institutions were an arm of the church, and the church leaders were still gowned; the teachers were included.

The present Academic Costume Code has changed little since its adoption in May 1895 at Columbia University. Houghton College faculty follow these guidelines as revised in 1960.

The black gown for the bachelor’s degree has pointed sleeves and is untrimmed. It is designed to be worn closed at the yoke. The black gown for the master’s degree has oblong sleeves open at the wrist but is designed to hang down in the traditional manner. The back part of the sleeve is square cut, and the front part has an arc cut away. The gown is designed to be worn open or closed. The doctor’s gown is full cut, usually black with full-length, bell-shaped sleeves. It is faced down the front with velvet and has three velvet bars on the sleeves. The velvet trim is black or the color of the subject area. The gown may be worn open or closed. Either a mortar-board or soft cap may be worn. The tassel is black or appropriate to the color of the subject field. For the doctoral degree, the cap may be velvet with a tassel of gold thread. The colorful hood identifies the subject field, level of degree and conferring institution.

The mace carried at the head of the processional today was presented to the college in 1969 by the late Professor Emeritus Stanley W. Wright and his son, Dr. Kenneth W. Wright, as a memorial for Sylvester and Elizabeth Bedford and Edna Bedford Wright. Once club-like weapons of the Middle Ages, maces today have a ceremonial character and are seen in legislative assemblies and academic bodies as a mark and symbol of jurisdiction or authority based on moral and intellectual leadership. The senior faculty member is mace bearer. The mace was crafted by Carl Fulkerson, its stand by Richard Fuller.

For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctors’ gowns, edging of hoods and tassels of caps, the colors associated with the different disciplines are as follows: Arts, Letters, Humanities — White; Commerce, Accountancy, Business — Drab; Economics — Copper; Education — Light Blue; Fine Arts — Brown; Journalism — Crimson; Law — Purple; Library Science — Lemon; Medicine — Green; Music — Pink; Oratory (Speech) — Silver Gray; Philosophy — Dark Blue; Physical Education — Sage Green; Science — Golden Yellow; Theology — Scarlet.

COMMENCEMENT AT HOUGHTON

Melvin Warburton received the first seminary diploma in 1888.

“College equivalent work” was first offered in 1895, and John Willett became the first graduate of the Advanced Department in 1901.

The first four-year class graduated in 1925.

The Adult Education program produced its first graduates in 1993.

The first three master’s degree students graduated in 2005 (Music).

Houghton College Buffalo produced its first graduates in 2015.

Houghton College Online produced its first graduates in 2017.



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